

HIS  
MAIESTIES  
DECLARATION,  
To all His loving  
SVBIECTS:

Published with the advice of  
His Privie Councill.



London Printed. 1641.

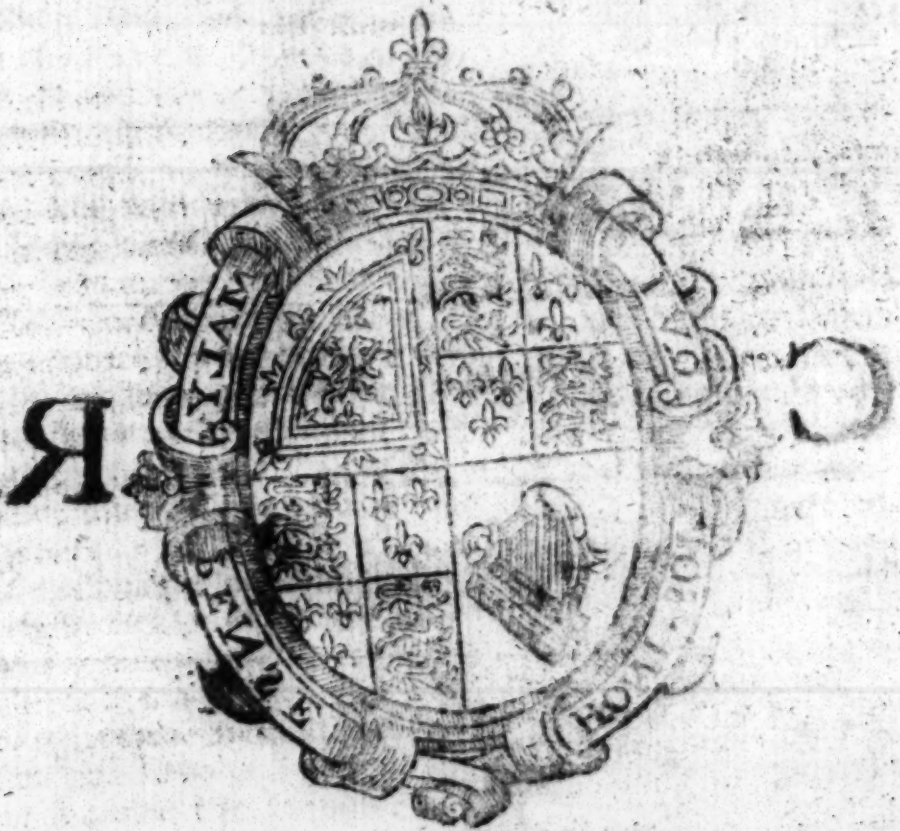
HIS

# MAJESTIES DECLARATION

To all His loving

## SUBJECTS:

Published with the advice of  
His Privie Counsell.



London Printed. 1641.

(2)

**HIS MAJESTIES  
DECLARATION,**

**To all His loving SUBJECTS,**

**Published with the advice of His  
Privie Councell.**



Though we do not helieve that our House of Commons intended, by their Remonstrance of the State of this Kingdom, to put Us to any Apologie, either for our past or present Actions; Notwithstanding, since they have thought it so very necessary (upon their observation of the present Distemper) to publish the same, for the satisfaction of all our loving Subjects, We have thought it very suitable to the duty of Our place, (with which we are charged Us) to do our part to so good a work, in which we shall not think it below Our Kingly dignity to descend to any particular, which may compose and settle the affections of Our most Subjectes, since We are so conscious to Our Selfe of such upright Intentions and Endeavours, and onely of such (for which We give God thanks) for the Peace and Happinesse of Our Kingdom, in which the prosperity of Our Subjects must be included, that We wish, from Our heart, that even Our most secret thoughts were published to their view and examination; Though We must confesse, We cannot but be very sorry in this conjuncture of time (when the unhappinesse of this Kingdom is so generally understood abroad) there should be such a necessity of publishing so many Particulars from which We pray, no Inconveniencies may infer that were not intended.

We shall in few words passe over that part of the Narrative, which on the Misfortunes of this Kingdom from our first entering to the Crowne, the beginning of this Parliament, are remembered in so sensible remem-



sions; And that other which acknowledgeth the many good Lawes passed by Our Grace and Favour this Parliament, for the Security of Our People; Of which We shall onely say thus much, That as we have not refused to passe any Bill presented to Us by Our Parliament, for redresse of those Grievances mentioned in the Remonstrance, so We have not had a greater Motive for the passing those Lawes, than Our own Resolution (grounded upon Our Observation, and understanding the State of Our Kingdom) to have freed Our Subjects for the future, from those Pressures which were grievous to them, if those Lawes had not been propounded, which therfore We shal as inviolably maintain as We look to have Our own Rights preserved, not doubting but all Our loving Subjects will look on those Remedies, with that full gratitude and affection, that even the memory of what they have formerly undergone by the Accidents and necessities of those times, will not be unpleasant to them: And possibly in a pious sence of Gods blessing upon this Nation (how little share soever We shall have of the acknowledgement) they will confesse they have injoyed a great measure of happinesse (eventhese last sixteen yeares) both in peace and plenty, not onely comparatively in respect of their Neighbours, but even of those times which were justly accounted Fortunate.

The feares and jealousies which may make some impression in the mindes of Our People, We will suppose may be of two sorts, either for Religion, or Liberty, and their civil Interest. The Feares for Religion may haply be, not onely as Ours here established may be invaded by the Romish Party, but as it is accompanied with some Ceremonies, at which some tender Conscience really are, or pretend to be scandalized, for of any other which have been used without any legal Warrant or Injunction, and already are, or freely may be abolished, We shall not speak.

Concerning Religion, as there may be any suspicion of favour or inclination to the Papists, We are willing to declare to all the world, That as We have been from Our childhood brought up in, and practised the Religion now established in this Kingdom; so it is well knowne, We have (not contented simply with the Principles of Our Education) given a good proportion of Our time and paines, to the examination of the grounds of this Religion, as it is different from that of Rome, and are from Our soul so fully satisfied and assured, that it is the most pure, and agreeable to the Sacred Word of God, of any Religion now practised in the Christian world; That as We beleeve, We can maintain the same by verable reasons, so We hope We should readily learne so it by the

effusion of Our Blood; if it pleased God to call Us to that sacrifice. And therefore nothing can be so acceptable unto Us, as any proposition which may contribute to the advancement of it here, or the propagation of it abroad; being the onely meanes to draw downe a blessing from God upon Our selves, and this Nation. And We have been extremely unfortunate, if this profession of Ours be wanting to Our People: Our constant practice in Our own Person, having alwayes been (without ostentation) as much to the evidence of Our care and duty hereint, as We could possibly tell how to expresse.

For differences amongst our selves, for matters indifferent in their own nature concerning Religion, We shall, in tendernesse to any number of Our loving Subjects, very willingly comply with the advice of Our Parliament, that some Law may be made for the exemption of tender Consciences from punishment, or prosecution for such Ceremonies, and in such cases which by the judgement of most men, are held to be matters indifferent, and of some to be absolutely unlawfull. Provided that this case be attempted, and pursued with that modesty, temper and submission, that in the mean time the peace and quiet of the Kingdom be not disturbed, the decency and comlineesse of Gods Service discountenanced, nor the pious, sober, and devout actions of those Reverend Persons, who were the first Labourers in the blessed Reformation, or of that time, be scandalled and defamed. For We cannot without grief of heart, and without some tax upon Our Self, and Our Ministers for the not execution of Our Lawes, look upon the bold Licence of some men, in Printing of Railing Tracts, Preaching & Printing of Sermons, so full of bitterness and malice against the present Government, against the Lawes established, so full of sedition against Our Self, and the peace of the Kingdom, that We are many times amazed to consider by what Eyes these things are seen, and by what Ears they are heard. And therefore We have good cause to command, as We have done, and hereby do, all Our Judges and Ministers of Justice, Our Attorney and Solicitor Generall, and the rest of Our learned Councell, to proceed with all speed against such, and their Abettors, who either by writing or words, have so boldly and maliciously violated the Lawes, disturbed the peace of the Common-wealth, and, as much as in them lies, shaken the very foundation upon which that peace and happinesse is founded and constituted. And We doubt not but all Our loving Subjects will be very sensible, that this busie, virulent, demeanour, is a fit Prologue to nothing but confusion; and if not very reasonably punished and prevented, will not onely be a blemish to that whole some accom-

moderation We intend, but an unspeakable scandall and imputation, even upon the Profession and Religion of this Our Kingdom of England.

Concerning the Civill Liberties and Interest of Our Subjects, Wee shall need to say the lesse, having erected so many lasting Monuments of Our Princely and fatherly care of Our People; in those many excellent Lawes passed by Us this Parliament, which in truth (with very much content to Our Selfe) We conceive to be so large and ample, that very many sober men have very little left to wish for.

We understood well the Right, and pretences of Right We departed from in the consenting to the Bills of the Trienniall Parliament, for the continuance of this present Parliament, and in the preamble to the Bill of Tunnage and Poundage; the matter of which having begun so many disturbances in late Parliaments, We were willing to remove, that no interest of Ours might hereafter breake that correspondence, abundantly contenting Our selfe with an Assurance (which We still have) that we should be repaired and supplied by a just proportion of confidence, bounty, and obedience of Our people. In the Bills for the taking away the High Commission and Star-chamber Courts, We beleevd We had given that reall satisfaction, that all jealousies and apprehensions of Arbitrary pressures under the Civill or Ecclesiasticall state, would easily have beene abandoned, especially when they saw all possible doubts secured by the visitation of a Trienniall Parliament. These, and others of no meane consideration, We had rather should be valued in the hearts and affections of Our people, then in any mention of Our owne, not doubting, but as We have taken all these occasions to render their condition most comfortable and happy, so they will alwayes in a gratefull and dutifull relation, be ready with equal tenderness and alacrity, to advance Our Rights, and preserve Our Honour, upon which their owne security and subsistence so much depends. And We will be so carefull, that no particular shall be presented unto Us for the compleating and establishing that security, to which We will not with the same readinesse contribute Our best assistance.

If these resolutions be the effects of Our present Counsels, (and We take God to witness that they are such, and that all Our loving subjects may confidently expect the benefit of them from Us) Certainly no ill designe upon the Publike can accompanny such Resolutions, neither will there be great cause of suspicion of any Persons preferred by Us to degrees of Honour, and places of trust and imploiment since this Parliament. And We must confesse, that amongst Our misfortunes, We reckon it not the least, That having not retained in Our Service, nor



protected any one Person, against whom Our Parliament hath excepted, during the whole sitting of it, and having in all that time scarce vouchsafed to any man an instance of Our Grace and Favour, but to such who were under some eminent Character of Estimation amongst Our people, there should so soone be any misunderstanding or jealousie of their fidelity and uprightness, especially in a time when We take all occasions to declare, That We conceive Our Self onely capable of being served by honest Men, and in honest wayes. However, if in truth We have been mistaken in such Our election, the particular shall be no sooner discovered to Us, either by Our own observation, or other certain information, then We will leave them to Publike Justice, under the markes of Our displeasure.

If notwithstanding this, any malignant Party shall take heart, and bee willing to sacrifice the Peace and Happinesse of their Countrey to their own sinister ends and ambitions, under what pretence of Religion and Conscience soever; If they shall endeavour to lessen Our Reputation and Interests, and to weaken Our lawfull Power and Authority with Our good Subjects, if they shall go about, by discountenancing the present Laws, to loosen the Bonds of Government, that all disorder and confusion may break in upon Us, We doubt not, but God in his good time will discover them unto Us; and the wisdom and courage of Our High Court of Parliament joyn with Us in their suppression and punishment.

Having now said all that We can, to expresse the cleareness and uprightness of Our Intentions to Our people, and done all We can to manifest those Intentions, Wee cannot but confidently believe all Our good Subjects will acknowledge Our part to be fully performed, both in deeds past, and present Resolutions, to doe whatsoever with Justice may be required of Us, and that their quiet and prosperity depends now wholly upon themselves, and is in their owne power, by yeelding all obedience and due reverence to the Law, which is the maintenance of every subject, and the only security he can have for his Life, liberty, or Estate, and the which being neglected or disesteemed (under what specious shewes soever) a great measure of infelicity, if not an irreparable confusion must without doubt fall upon them. And We doubt not it will be the most acceptable Declaration a King can make to His Subjects, that for Our part We are resolved not onely duly to observe the Laws Our Self, but to maintain them against what opposition soever, though with the hazard of Our being.

And Our hope is, that not onely the Loyallie and good Affections of all Our loving Subjects, will concur with Us in the constant preserving

a good understanding between Us and Our people, but at this time reflecting  
 own, and Our interest and compassion of the lamentable condition of  
 Our poor Protestant Subjects in *Ireland* will invite them to a faithful con-  
 ligence and unie amongst themselves, that so We may with one heart  
 intend the relieving and recovering that unhappy kingdom, whereas  
 those barbarous Rebels practise such inhumane and unheard of Outrages  
 upon Our miserable people, that no Christian ear can hear without hor-  
 rour, nor story paralell. And as We look upon this, as the greatest afflic-  
 ction it hath pleased God to lay upon Us, so Our unhappinesse is increa-  
 sed, in that by the distempers at home, so early remedies have not been  
 applied to those growing evils as the expectation and necessity there  
 requires, though for Our part, as We did upon the first notice acquaint  
 Our Parliament of *Scotland* (where We then were) with that Rebellion  
 on, requiring their aid and assistance, & gave like speedy intimation and  
 commendation to Our Parliament here; so since Our return hither, again  
 We have been forward to all things which have been purchased to Us  
 towards that work, and have lately Our Self offered (by a Message to Our  
 House of Peers and communicated to Our House of Commons) to take  
 upon Us the care to raise speedily ten thousand *English* Volunteers for  
 that service, if the House of Commons shall declare that they will pay  
 them; which particulars We are (in a manner) necessitated to publish  
 since We are informed that the malice of some persons hath whispered  
 it abroad, That the no speedier advancing of this businesse hath pro-  
 ceeded from some want of alacrity in Us to this great work, whereas  
 We acknowledge it a high crime against Almighty God, and inexcusa-  
 ble to Our good Subjects of Our three Kingdoms, if We did not to boog  
 the utmost employ all Our powers and faculties to the speediest and  
 most effectual assistance and protection of that distressed people.

And We shall now conjure all Our good Subjects (of what degree wor-  
 soever) by all the Bonds of Love, Duty, or Obedience, that are precious  
 to good men, to joyn with Us for the Recovery of the Peace of that  
 Kingdom, and the preservation of the Peace of this, to remove all their  
 Doubts and Fears, which may interrupt their affection to Us, and allo-  
 their Jealousies and apprehensions which may lessen their Charity to  
 each other, and then (if the sins of this Nation have not prepared an in-  
 evitable Judgement for us all) God will yet make Us a Great and  
 Glorious King, over a Free and Happy People.

F I N I S.



